

NAME: Skokomish Estuary Restoration Phase III

LOCATION: Great Bend of Hood Canal, Shelton, WA in Mason County

ACRES: 330 acres tidal/palustrine marsh complex

NON-FEDERAL SPONSOR: Mason Conservation District

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The project proposes to re-establish historic hydrologic connectivity of a large freshwater wetland to the estuary of the Skokomish River in lower Hood Canal by removing hydrologic impediments that have disrupted the historic flow of freshwater into the Skokomish estuary and Hood Canal. A total of 20 culverts will be replaced with appropriately sized structures that will not restrict or hinder the function of natural processes. Additionally, several channels that have been diverted into man-made ditches will be restored to the historic channel locations which require construction of 4 new bridges over channels.

EXPECTED BENEFITS:

The project will see numerous benefits for various ecosystem elements including increased productivity of habitats that support critical salmonid life-history requirements. Habitat conditions are expected to improve intertidal forage and refuge opportunities for the ESA-listed endangered stocks of Puget Sound Chinook, Hood Canal summer chum salmon, and bull trout, as well as Puget Sound steelhead which are officially proposed for listing as endangered species. Other anticipated benefits are expected for benthic organisms, migratory waterfowl, varied shellfish taxa, and increased native vegetation.

STATUS: Planning and Design